

## NEW YORK HERALD.

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OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS: Cash in advance. Money sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender. None but bank bills current in New York taken.

Volume XXIX.....No. 33

## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—CONVULS SOGGAR.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROADSIDE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—TICKETS OF LEAFY MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—A BILL IN A CHINA SHOP.—MARETTA.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BOOKWOOD—SUSPENDED MANHUR—TERRA FANTASMA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT—ADOPTED CHILD—LUCIE THE LABOIRE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—FRENCH GIANT, GIANT GIRL, GIANT BOY, &amp;c., at all hours. CAMILLA'S HOME, at 10 P. M.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 478 Broadway.—STANDARD SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &amp;c.—THE SINGING FAMILY.

WOODS' MINSTREL HALL, 414 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.—RAILROAD EXPLOSION.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 64 Broadway.—BALLETS, FANTASIES, BURLESQUES, &amp;c.—YOUNG RECRUIT.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 45 Broadway.—GRAND AND SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCES. Afternoon and Evening.

ROPE CHAMPEL, 715 Broadway.—THE STEREOSCOPIC CHAMPEL OF THE UNIVERSE.

TERRA'S, 55 Broadway.—STEREOSCOPIC AND MINOR OF THE HEBERLEIN.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—LECTURES AND LECTURES FROM P. M. 10 P. M.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &amp;c.

New York, Tuesday, February 2, 1864.

## THE SITUATION.

The action of Congress yesterday on the question of the elevation of General Grant to the position of Lieutenant General and Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, by a vote of one hundred and eleven to seventeen, not only establishes the popularity of that officer, but indirectly condemns the policy of General Halleck, whom General Grant will, of course, supersede in command of the armies, if the bill should receive the sanction of the Senate and the signature of the President.

The latest despatches from General Kelley's command, in West Virginia, state that a fight took place yesterday afternoon in the New Creek valley between an advancing column of the enemy's troops and one column of ours. After a sharp engagement we repulsed the enemy, driving him back over two miles. The enemy had obtained possession of Burlington before they were driven back.

Stories of a proposition on the part of the rebels to lay down their arms if their leaders were included in Mr. Lincoln's amnesty proclamation were floating about yesterday; but there is no confirmation whatever such rumors.

Another rumor, with just as much probability attached to it, is one that comes from Huntsville, Ala., to the effect that an attack was made on Mobile some five days ago. We have rebel papers to the 20th ult., and they make no reference whatever to any such affair; neither do our former despatches announcing the arrival of Admiral Farragut at New Orleans.

There appears to be no doubt that the rebels at Ringgold and Dalton have gone to join Longstreet in his design upon Kentucky.

Our extracts from the rebel journals referred to are highly interesting. They represent the spirits of the Southern people to be most exuberant. The soldiers are said to be re-enlisting by whole regiments and brigades, "without bounty or bribe." The safety of Richmond in the spring campaign, which General Grant is supposed to have designed, is talked of with some fear by the Richmond Examiner. The coming Presidential election, and the chances of Mr. Lincoln and General Grant form subjects for comment in the rebel press, but the writers do not seem to comprehend the idea very clearly.

The news from the Potomac Army is not very important. In a reconnaissance by our cavalry yesterday the Post Office at Madison Court House was visited, and Richmond papers of the 30th of January were found, containing General Lee's address to his army (which we give in full), exhorting his soldiers not to faint with their compulsory hunger, but to endure for only a short time longer the hardships of short rations, and several editorial articles confirming previous reports of destitution in the rebel army. The letters possess great interest, as unfolding a view of the sufferings of rebel soldiers and their families, and express a general desire for peace on any terms, and a confession that the rebel cause is hopeless.

Deceiters are coming into our lines in large numbers, and report the destitution in the rebel army as insupportable.

## CONGRESS.

The proceedings of Congress yesterday were unusually interesting. In the Senate the resignation of Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, was received, and the credentials of his successor, Mr. George Read Riddle, were presented by Mr. Sanbury. A message was received from the President transmitting the report of the Secretary of State, in answer to the resolution of the Senate, respecting the correspondence with the authorities of Great Britain with reference to the pursuit of hostile bands of Iowa Indians into the Hudson Bay Territory. A bill providing for the examination of quartermasters, commissaries and paymasters was referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, made a lengthy explanation respecting his action for the expulsion of Senators Bright and Powell, and his course on the confiscation question. The resolution that Departments shall detail an officer to watch proceedings before Congressional investigating Committees was then taken up, and during the discussion Mr. Grimes read a letter from Donald McKay, the Boston shipbuilder, in reference to the wants of our naval vessels and the recent controversy between the engineers on that subject. The death of Mr. Neill, of Missouri, was announced, and the usual resolutions were adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives a resolution for printing fifty thousand additional copies of General McClellan's report was referred to the Printing Committee. A joint resolution providing money commutation when short rations are served to soldiers, was referred. The Judiciary Committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of

amending the Confiscation act so as to make it the duty of District Attorneys to take steps for forfeiting the property of traitors on complaint, under oath, of any citizen who shall state the cause for such proceedings. The Pension Committee were instructed to inquire, in view of the increased expense of living, into the expediency of increasing the amount paid to pensioners. A bill to afford protection to overland emigrants was referred to the Military Committee. A resolution was offered by Mr. Blair, of Missouri, providing for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the working of the trade regulations established by the Treasury Department. A select committee was ordered on the subject of a national armory west of the Alleghany Mountains. A resolution directing inquiry as to the expediency of repealing or suspending the law for drafting soldiers was laid on the table by a vote of eighty-four against forty-two. A resolution recommending a more vigorous policy in order to enlist colored troops was adopted by a vote of eighty against forty-six. The bill reviving the grade of lieutenant general was then taken up, and after an animated debate an amendment, recommending the appointment of General Grant to the position, was adopted by a vote of 111 against 17, and the bill passed—yeas 96, nays 41. In Committee of the Whole the Senate bill amendatory of the Enrollment act was discussed, and the House adjourned.

The United States steam transport City of Bath, Capt. Sears, eight hours from Port Royal, S. C., with two hundred private and fourteen officers of the Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteers, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon. She brings no news.

The Hon. E. W. Gantt, of Arkansas, ex-Brigadier General in the rebel army, addressed a very large gathering in the Cooper Institute last evening. He strongly denounced slavery as the cause of the war, and expressed the hope that he would ere long see the Northern soldiers settle on the plantations of the South.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship Hibernia, from Galway on the 19th of January, put into Halifax yesterday, on her voyage to New York. The Hibernia was short of coal, in consequence of having been detained several days in the ice. The same cause prevented her calling at St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The news by the Hibernia is two days later than the advices of the Australasian. It is of a highly important character. Europe was on the brink of war, in consequence of the complications of the Schleswig-Holstein question. Austria and Prussia had proposed an ultimatum to Denmark, calling on the King to withdraw the November constitution relative to the duchies. The King of Denmark rejected the ultimatum, and the Austrian and Prussian Ministers had retired from Copenhagen. The Emperor of Austria had reviewed thirty thousand troops, and the military preparations for war were very active in Prussia. In presenting the ultimatum to Denmark, Austria and Prussia acted in opposition to the vote of the Federal Diet in Frankfurt, and against the feeling of the minor States of Germany. The London Post expected that a declaration of war would immediately ensue on the part of Austria and Prussia, on the one side, and Denmark—on the other, we presume, her allies—on the other. Hostilities may not immediately ensue, it is said; but if war should break out, it is evident that not only will all Europe be convulsed, but the unity of the German Confederation dissolved.

The French Legislature was still debating the address in reply to the Emperor's speech. With regard to Mexico it was said that the amendment of the opposition will be met by a ministerial statement to the effect that the expenses of the French army in Mexico have been paid by the Mexican government since the 1st of January. The Archduke Maximilian was to be received with "appropriate honors" at the Court of France. Garibaldi had issued a proclamation inviting the Italians to rally to Italian unity. A new ministry had been formed in Spain.

Consols closed in London at noon on the 19th of January at 90 9/16 a 90 13/16 for money. The London Stock Exchange was rather feverish, in consequence of the warlike aspect of affairs in Germany and the drain of gold from the Bank of France. It was thought the rate of discount would be put up to eight per cent. The failure of two old established English houses is announced—one in London and one in Coventry. The Liverpool cotton market closed rather dull on the 19th of January. The sales were small. Breadstuffs opened firmer, and wheat advanced under the influence of the war news from the continent. Provisions were steady.

The proposition for the new French loan of £12,000,000 sterling met with an extraordinary success. The applications made during a few days amounted to £150,000,000 sterling (eight hundred millions of dollars), thirteen times the amount required.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held at one o'clock yesterday afternoon. Alderman Hardy offered a resolution empowering the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform to compel witnesses, when summoned, to appear before them. A resolution was adopted instructing the Hudson River Railroad Company not to draw more than one freight car at a time over that portion of the track lying within the city limits. A resolution was also adopted authorizing the Comptroller to make a transfer of \$25,000 in order to receive the returning three years' regiments. The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the Comptroller's report, presented their report in favor of paying the interest on the city debt. The Comptroller's report was also received, stating that the fund for the aid of soldiers' families at present remaining in his hands amounted to \$22,117. The Board adjourned to Tuesday next, after the transaction of some further unimportant business.

The Board of Councilmen met at one o'clock yesterday, when the paper from the Aldermen authorizing the erection of an elevated railroad at the foot of Twentieth street, North river, was referred to the Committee on Streets. The resolution by the Committee on National Affairs recommending that the Comptroller be authorized to transfer the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to the appropriation for city contingencies to be expended in giving a suitable reception to the returning regiments was also received and concurred in. The other business transacted was of an unimportant nature, and the Board adjourned until Thursday next at one o'clock.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of Health, held at the Mayor's office yesterday, Mayor Gunter called the attention of the Board to the alarming increase of typhoid fever and diseases resulting from the imperfect ventilation of buildings, especially tenement houses, and inquired if anything had been done by the Common Council in pursuance of the suggestions of the Commissioners. Councilman Hays informed the Board that the Council had already requested the Council to the Corporation to draft an ordinance to secure the adoption of proper means of ventilation, and Alderman Henry stated that he would use his influence to the same end in the Board of Aldermen. Dr. Sayre confirmed the statement as to the prevalence of these diseases, and the necessity for immediate action by the Common Council to prevent the spread of the same. Mr. Armstrong, the clerk, sent in his resignation, which was accepted.

The United States District Attorney yesterday filed a final decree of distribution of the proceeds of the prize steamer Stettin, in the United States Circuit Court. The Bienville alone shares in the proceeds, which amount to \$202,471.

Judge Cardoso rendered a decision yesterday in the Evening Express newspaper case, granting the motion for a stay of proceedings pending the appeal from the order of Judge Hutton. The

trial of the case, which was to have come off before Judge Brady, was adjourned until next Monday, in consequence of the business engagements of one of the counsel for the Moorea Brooks.

The February term of the Court of General Sessions commenced yesterday morning. Judge A. D. Russell presiding. The panel of Grand Jurors was called, and afterwards discharged until this morning at eleven o'clock. No cases being ready for trial, the Court adjourned to the same hour.

William Collins, one of the "Clubbers" alleged to be implicated in the murder of Albert Coleman, a boatman, in Water street, on Friday evening, was arrested by the police on Sunday at the saloon corner of Broadway and Prince street. At the same time a young man named John Dobbs, who is charged with shooting policeman Sweeney on New Year's Day, was arrested. Both the prisoners were committed to prison.

The decision in the Husted habeas corpus case, which was to have been rendered yesterday, was postponed by Judge Barnard until to-day, in consequence of the non-attendance of one of Mrs. Husted's counsel.

John W. Andrews, implicated in the draft riots, was remanded to Fort Lafayette yesterday, the United States District Attorney having decided to investigate the case before a grand jury.

Surrogate Tucker has admitted to probate the contested will of Nathan Jackson. The testator leaves the bulk of his property to his widow, and the will was contested by one of his sons. The estate is valued at \$100,000. The accounts of the estates of Samuel S. Davenport, Clinton G. Bird, Augustus Gerald Hall, Sarah B. Hull, Margaret Kelly and James Hart, Jr., have been finally settled.

Governor Andrew Johnson is giving every facility to the residents of Tennessee to vote at the coming election. He has provided means so that all desiring to do so can subscribe to the President's amnesty oath, and receive the proper certificate of protection, which will entitle them to the full benefits of the act.

The stock market exhibited no particular feature yesterday, and the prices of Saturday were generally fully sustained, with an upward tendency. An attempt was made in the morning to put up the premium on gold, on the strength of the President's proclamation; but it failed. Money may now be considered easy under the light rate of interest, and borrowers can be plentifully supplied. Government stocks remain firm, the five-twenties standing at 104, and the seven and three-tenths at 104.

There was general dulness in commercial matters yesterday, and the amount of business transacted in the several departments was unusually small. The prevalence of a rain storm put a stop to most outdoor business, and checked all kinds of operations. On 'Change dulness and depression were the ruling features, and a general decline in prices was reported. Freight was dull and heavy, but prices were without alteration. Groceries were decidedly dull, but prices were without important change. Cotton was unchanged. Petroleum was dull and nearly nominal.

## The Proposed Draft to Square up Old Accounts.

The papers, and consequently the people, seem to be laboring under a mistake in regard to the draft ordered by President Lincoln in the proclamation published yesterday. This draft for five hundred thousand men is, in reality, not a new draft. It is rather a completion of the drafts already ordered—a general squaring up of the old accounts between the people and the government. To make this matter plain to our readers, we publish in another column the calls for troops issued by the President since and including 1862.

It will be seen that on the 4th of August, 1862, President Lincoln ordered a draft for three hundred thousand nine months militia, in addition to the three hundred thousand volunteers already authorized by Congress. These nine months men were all raised; but that still left the people in debt to the government for the three hundred thousand volunteers. For one cause and another, and especially because the government had plenty of nine months men in the field, this matter was allowed to slip over until 1863, when a draft was ordered. This, it will be remembered, culminated in the New York riots. The Secretary of War reports that he obtained fifty thousand men by this draft, and fifty thousand more by volunteering up to the date of the draft—making one hundred thousand in all. Deduct this one hundred thousand from the three hundred thousand authorized by Congress, and we find that the people were in debt to the government, after the draft of 1863, just two hundred thousand men.

The draft, as we have said, took place in the summer of 1863. In October, 1863, the President issued a call for three hundred thousand volunteers, "in addition to the men raised by the present draft." Add to this three hundred thousand the two hundred thousand deficiency noted in the preceding paragraph, and we have a total of five hundred thousand men, which is precisely the number called for by the President in his recent order. Of course, as the President states, "as many as may have been enlisted or drafted into the service prior to the 1st of March" will be deducted from this five hundred thousand. The fuss raised about the new draft by some of our papers is, therefore, superfluous. It is a mere settlement of accounts, in which the government debits the people with all the troops called for since the beginning of 1862, and credits the people with all the drafted and enlisted men since the same date. Instead of being a demand for five hundred thousand new men, it is only a demand that the people shall pay up the balance on their old debt. This we should at once set to work to accomplish. The indications are that it will not be very hard work for any locality.

Vermont, Indiana, Connecticut, and we believe, New Jersey, have filled up their quotas under all the calls. Consequently there will be no draft in those States. Many cities, towns and counties throughout the country have reported all their quotas full. These fortunate places will escape the draft. About one hundred thousand men are said to have enlisted during the month of January. This will cut down materially the number called for. The veteran regiments which have re-enlisted, or shall re-enlist before the 1st of March, will be credited to the localities where they were originally recruited. This will cut down the number again. On the whole, we are of the opinion that only about two hundred thousand men will remain to be raised before the 1st of March; and this can be easily done, and the draft avoided altogether, by a proper display of patriotism and liberality, especially as the present boundaries are to be continued up to ten days before the draft. As far as New York is concerned, Supervisor Blunt, Chairman of the Volunteering Committee, reports that he thinks there will be no difficulty in raising our quota before the time specified in the draft order.

Naturally enough, he expects every good citizen to aid him in the work, so as to avert all trouble and sustain the reputation of this metropolis of the Union, which has already done more for the war than the whole State of Massachusetts, that both of fanatics, and author of almost all our woes.

## The War in East Tennessee—The New Rebel Programme.

The late movements of the rebel General Longstreet in East Tennessee have given rise to some apprehensions as to the safety of Knoxville. That he has been contemplating the surprise and seizure of this important position we cannot doubt; but, according to our latest advices from that quarter, he has discovered that his movements to this end have been too slow; for it appears that he has again turned his back upon "the Yankees," and is supposed to be retreating across the northwest corner of North Carolina, to join Joe Johnston in Georgia.

Should this opinion be confirmed, as we expect it will be, by actual reconnaissance, then we may safely conclude that the rebel programme for the spring campaign will involve the evacuation of Richmond and the abandonment of Virginia, and the shortening of their defensive line from Dalton, Georgia, across, perhaps, to Wilmington, North Carolina; because the safety of the only available line of communication between Southwestern Virginia and Richmond depends as much upon the protection of Longstreet's army in the West as upon Lee's army in the East. This, then, is the new rebel plan of operations forehanded by this second retreat of Longstreet from our forces assigned to the defence of Knoxville—namely, the abandonment of the defensive line of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, the necessary abandonment next of Richmond and Virginia, and the concentration of all the available armed forces of the rebellion on an immensely shortened defensive line—say the line we have just suggested, extending across the country by way of the Cape Fear river from Wilmington, N. C., to Dalton or Atlanta, Ga.

But what may be asked, will then become of the Virginia soldiers of Jeff. Davis? Will they not abandon him and his hopeless cause with the surrender of their State to "the Yankees"? Doubtless many of them will; but many others will still adhere to his fortunes, as his infatuated fighting followers from Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana have done and are still doing, notwithstanding the irrecoverable loss of their respective States. Moreover, the chivalry of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, in Lee's army, must now be as anxious to return home to the defence of their own States as the Virginians can be to retain them in the Old Dominion. Indeed, it is probable that the dangers which menace their general cause in Georgia have already brought the rebel rulers at Richmond to the determination to leave Virginia in the hands of her guerrillas for a season, while the regular armies of the rebellion are moved down for a last desperate struggle with that most terrible and dangerous of all their enemies, General Grant.

What, then, will be the plan of operations most likely to be pursued by Jeff. Davis, assuming that his first object is to fall back to a shorter and more tenable defensive line? We think that, in abandoning the enterprise of flanking Chattanooga on the east, he will attempt it on the west. We suspect that the late mysterious movements of Longstreet and Joe Johnston cover some such design, and we shall not be surprised if within the present month we receive authentic intelligence of the advance of a rebel army, one hundred thousand strong, across the northern border of Alabama, and aiming by forced marches to compass the surprise and capture of Nashville. With their vastly inferior armies and diminished prospects East and West, the rebel chiefs cannot afford to stand idly waiting upon the defensive until the Union generals confronting them are fully prepared for offensive operations. We think it altogether probable, therefore, that, if not interrupted in the meantime, Joe Johnston, within a month or so, will invite our army from Chattanooga, not into the plains of Georgia, but to the defence of Nashville, in the heart of Tennessee.

The heavy fortifications of Richmond, as the Davis confederacy now stands, amount to nothing. They may be taken—as those stupendous works at Columbus, on the Mississippi, were taken—by a flank movement, and at fifty, a hundred or five hundred miles off. The city may be taken by the simple occupation of its southern lines of communication, over which its supplies of subsistence from day to day are drawn; and these vital lines may be seized in North or South Carolina or Georgia. In a word, the military situation, East and West, the urgent military necessities of the rebellion, and all the reports lately received from Richmond, and from Longstreet and Joe Johnston, strengthen us in the opinion that the new programme of Davis will involve the abandonment of Richmond and Virginia by his regular armies, and the concentration of all his armies for a flank movement into Tennessee, after the fashion of Lee's campaigns into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

## The Threatened War in Europe.

The Hibernia arrived at Halifax yesterday, with news from Galway to the 19th ult. It is of the highest importance, as indicating a rupture in Germany. The details will be found in another column. The Schleswig-Holstein question had evidently reached its crisis.

While awaiting further information from Europe, it may not be amiss at this moment to review the position of the great Powers. According to the advices by the Hibernia, a war between Germany and Denmark seemed almost unavoidable, the disputed point being which shall rule over the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. We are inclined to believe, spite of the threatening attitude of the above named Powers, that no war will take place. The quarrel will be patched up, because Europe dreads any outbreak.

England has no interest in the war. Hence she will oppose it, as Prussia fears the consequences to herself, as France would most likely side with Denmark, and manage, in the confusion of the conflict, to capture and retain those German provinces the possession of which would enable her to extend her frontiers to the Rhine. Austria desires peace, as in case of war she must expect outbreaks in Hungary and Italy. Russia, with the Polish insurrection to put down, must of course deprecate a war in Germany, which may become the starting point for a grand European revolution; and hence she will seek to maintain peace.

Spain has no interest in the matter, and will take no initiative, of course. France alone may profit by the impending war; and here is the danger to Europe. But the position of Napoleon is such that at this moment he may not desire a war, and in that case he will do all in his power to pacify the would be belligerents. France must be free from the Mexican expedition ere she can undertake to foster a European war. We shall doubtless see England and France settling the disputed point between Denmark and the German Confederation, and thus peace will be preserved. Still all Europe will fear the outbreak of war so long as France, and, in fact, all the great Powers, keep up such formidable armaments. This fear is chronic in Europe, just as at Washington there ever exists a chronic dismay lest Davis may invade and capture that capital. To conclude, we anticipate no immediate war in Europe, as the general interest in that country is against its occurrence. Still, as men's passions often override their reason, we by no means assert that war cannot take place there. A very short time will settle the question, as from late accounts the antagonists were almost face to face.

## The Five Hundred Thousand Men—The Management of the War.

The President, by an order dated February 1, consolidates the last two calls for men, and requires that by March 10 they shall together reinforce our armies to the extent of five hundred thousand men. Such an aggregate, added to the men now under arms, will give us a total force of nine hundred and eighty-one thousand, or, in round numbers, a million of men. Three-fourths of this immense army will be veterans—men used to fire and trained to a soldier's life. Never before in the history of the world did so many men fight together under one banner; and as the country is now expected to put this immense force into the field, it may be well to inquire what is to be done with so many men. Nations thus rich in men are inevitably lavish of their lives; and that is a kind of extravagance that the country has seen extensively indulged in this war. But we think that the country has seen enough of it. Through the blunders of the Washington directory fifty per cent of the lives lost in this war have been wantonly wasted, and it ought to be known whether this waste is to stop now.

Would it not be well for Mr. Lincoln, from the date of this draft forward, to leave the management of the war alone? Four grand advances against Richmond have ended in terrible disaster to our arms; and for every disaster Mr. Lincoln is alone responsible. He is also principally responsible for Rosecrans' failure at Chickamauga, and for numberless other failures, great and small, in all parts of the country, as is proven by the report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, by the report of General Halleck and by the report of General McClellan. In 1862 General McClellan had planned an advance against Richmond. Mr. Lincoln had made a plan for the same purpose, which was embodied in the annexed letter.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1862.

Major General McClellan.—I have distinct and different plans for a movement of the Army of the Potomac. Yours to be down the Chesapeake, up the Rappahannock to Urbana, and across land to the terminus of the York river. Mine to move directly to a point on the railroad southwest of Manassas. If you give me satisfactory answers to the following questions, I shall gladly yield my plan to yours.

1. Does not your plan involve a greatly larger expenditure of time and money than mine?

2. Wherein is a victory more certain by your plan than mine?

3. Wherein is a victory more valuable by your plan than mine?

4. In fact, would it not be less valuable in this, that it would break no great line of the enemy's communication, while mine would, in case of disaster, would not be a safe retreat by the railroad by your plan than mine?

Yours, truly,  
A. LINCOLN.

General McClellan was permitted to start for the fulfilment, with some modifications, of his own plan; but when this had brought him within view of the spires of the rebel capital, and while all looked well for the speedy capture of that city, the President came up with his plan and ruined all. Devoted to his little plan, he kept the troops that should have been with McClellan in the Valley of Virginia. Our force was thus in two parts. The enemy got between the two parts, and was able to fight either at his leisure. Our complete failure on the peninsula, the destruction of Pope, and Lee's advance into Maryland, were thus the result of Mr. Lincoln's first great attempt to manage the war.

Considerably later there was great trouble about the Mississippi. The rebels had closed it by the fortification of Vicksburg, and we wished to open it. All sorts of plans were suggested and tried, with uniform failure. Finally General Grant went down, ran the batteries, landed his troops below the city, beat the enemy's troops in the open country, and was prepared to march upon the enemy's fortified position from the rear. And just at that moment, when Grant's position in relation to Vicksburg was exactly analogous to what McClellan's position had been in relation to Richmond, the President wished to report on Grant the interference by which he had destroyed the plans of McClellan. So much he tells us in this letter:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, July 13, 1863.

My Dear General Grant.—I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgment for the almost inestimable service you have done for country. I wish to say a word further. When you first reached the vicinity of Vicksburg I thought you should do what you finally did—march the troops across the neck, run the batteries with the transports, and thus go below; and I never had any faith, except a general hope that you knew better than I, that the Yazoo Pass expedition and the like could succeed. When you got below and took Fort Gibson, Grand Gulf and Vicksburg, I thought you should go down the river and join General Sherman, and when you turned northward, and cut the Big Black, I feared it was a mistake. I wish to make a personal acknowledgment that you were right and I was wrong. Yours, very truly,  
A. LINCOLN.

But, for some reason or another—perhaps on account of the distance only—the President was unable to interfere as actively on the Mississippi as he had done in Virginia, and, therefore, Vicksburg was taken.

Now look at these two letters and at the results. Do not circumstances like these prove conclusively that the President ought now to leave the management of the war alone? Can it be that they do not excite in the President's own mind a mistrust of his military genius? Mr. Lincoln is a tolerable politician and a shrewd lawyer. Let him go on with his jokes and his politics, but let him leave the war alone. Let the war be left to the generals, and we will have peace by the Fourth of July.

A PARALLEL WITHOUT A POINT.—The Tribune comes out with a lame defence of the shortcomings of the Navy Department. It quotes an extract from the London Times of March, 1813, to show that the same complaints of neglect, inefficiency and mismanagement which are being made against Secretary Welles were then preferred against the Lords of the Admiralty. "In seven months," it says, "upwards of five hundred British vessels had been captured by the Americans, and up to that time not a single American frigate had been made for strike her flag." All this is very true; but as a parallel it proves nothing, except, if we will, that the British at that time, we certainly ought to clear the ocean of three or four rebel privateers now. What we quarrel with the present head of the Navy Department is for his not his not accomplishing impossibilities, but his refusing to avail himself of the resources that modern science and an unlimited command of means have placed at his disposal. His notions of a vessel's capabilities are founded on the old Noah's ark model, which he keeps beside him, and nothing will induce him to depart from the fixed ideas that he has acquired upon the subject. To this doggedness and the employment of incapable subordinates we owe the crippling of our commerce and the inefficiency for a lengthened period of the blockade.

UNION STATE ELECTIONS IN REBEL STATES.—Within the next six weeks, in three of the States that went out of the Union—Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana—State elections are to be held under President Lincoln's proclamation. Exception may be taken to the manner in which these elections are to be carried out; but the fact cannot be disputed that within the time prescribed the three States in question will be technically as well as virtually as much within the operation of the federal compact as ever they were. There will then remain to the rebels but six and a half States out of the original thirteen that seceded; for of Virginia we possess the other half. It is very certain, then, that if the spring campaign be vigorously carried on on our part the remainder of the rebel territory will be recovered by June, and the example of Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana followed in time by all the revolted States to enable their representatives to take part in the proceedings of the next Congress.

## The Returning Regiments.

ACTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO THE RETURNING REGIMENTS.—TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS APPROPRIATED FOR THEIR RECEPTION, ETC., ETC.

BOARD OF COMMON COUNCIL.—The Board of Councilmen met at one o'clock yesterday, President Hayes in the chair. After transacting some business of an unimportant nature, a paper was received from the Aldermen, in which the Committee on National Affairs recommended that the Comptroller should be authorized to transfer the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to the appropriation for city contingencies, and the same to be expended in giving a suitable reception to the returning regiments.

Mr. BRANSON said the Committee on National Affairs, both for this year and last, had been unjustly censured by the papers, and particularly by the Herald, for not taking prompt action to make provision for the reception of the returning regiments. It was not the fault of the Committee that they had not done so. They had done it as well as they could. They had done it as well as they could. They had done it as well as they could.

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## News from the Southwest.

St. Louis, Feb. 2, 1864.  
A despatch from Fort Smith, dated January 29, 1864, General Taylor has been placed in the command of the District of the Frontier, heretofore commanded by General McNeil.

Over forty thousand negroes have been concentrated in the various towns in the interior of Texas, hundreds of whom are now dying of disease and starvation.

Thirty Seminoles Indians, who had deserted from Major and reached Waldron, represent that he was contracting his forces on the border of Louisiana, in anticipation of an attack from General Banks.

A rumor was current to-day that Waldron was captured yesterday by Price's forces. Waldron is severely injured south of here.

## News from Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 31, 1864.  
The flag of the steamer New York arrived last evening. Four Union officers—one colonel and three captains—were sent down on their parole by the rebel government. About twenty refugees from Richmond arrived to-day at New York.

The English frigate Rose arrived and anchored in Hampton Roads this afternoon.

A United States ferryboat arrived this morning from Yorktown with 126 rebel prisoners. They were sent directly to the flagship Minnesota.